

FOX, W. Starwood

Nov 1916

Princeton, N.J.,

March 10, 1916.

My dear President Falconer:

The present situation and the prospective changes in the staff of the classical department of University College are entirely unknown to me, yet in the event that a vacancy might occur in the near future I should like to present my name for your consideration. Although my present post is very satisfactory from a scholastic point of view, it can never be the same to me as ^a post among my own Canadian people. At this trying time more than any other do I long to be back in my old home.

My rank in Princeton is that of Assistant Professor at a salary of two thousand dollars a year. According to the custom here my work is in both Greek and Latin, though largely in the former, one of my courses being in the department of post-graduate studies. Four of my sixteen years since graduation have been spent in graduate work in Geneva, Athens and Johns

Hopkins, and twelve in teaching at Brandon, Johns Hopkins and Princeton. Since coming to Princeton I have been fortunate in having been offered the opportunity of writing two books, the first appearing four years ago, the second to come from the press about Easter. I have also been an occasional contributor to Professor Gildersleeve's journal and to Classical Philology. Several of my articles have been publications of materials in the Royal Ontario Museum of Archaeology. Were I to be situated in Toronto I should be able to continue the publication of other materials which Mr. Currelly has requested me to take in hand. May I add, however, that my first interest is the literature of the Classics and it is my constant endeavor to make archaeology merely a handmaid to it.

I am quite conscious that this recital of personal *res gestae* may seem indelicate and fulsome, yet I have ventured to give it in the knowledge that it contains some of the items which it is

desirable to know concerning a candidate for a teaching post. Professor Gildersleeve of Johns Hopkins and Professors Abbott and Capps of Princeton are sending you at my request statements of what they believe to be my qualifications. Should you see fit, I could refer you to others who are also able to speak of my work and experience.

Since the beginning of the war little else has claimed our thought than the noble struggle of our people at home. Our life has been rendered not intolerable, however, through the fact that in this community sympathy runs practically one hundred per cent strong with the right side.

Believe me to be,

Very respectfully yours,

W. Sherwood Fox

To President R.A. Faloone,
University of Toronto,
Toronto, Ontario.

P.S. I have just received word from Baltimore that Dr. Gildersleeve is very ill, but on his recovery will write to you.

W.S.F.

BATTLE ROAD
PRINCETON, N. J.

March 11, 1916

Dear Sir:

Professor W. S. Fox of
this University has asked me
to write you of his qualifi-
cations for a position in
Classics in the University of
Toronto, and I am very
glad to accede to his request.

Professor Fox has been
teaching here for the last
five years, and we have
a high opinion both of
his scholarship and of
his skill as a teacher.
However, our inability to
hold out to him the future

which his attainments and his success deserve, make us feel that he is right in looking elsewhere.

I hope that Professor Fox will send you a list of his publications. He has been one of the most productive scholars in our Department, and his writings have been highly commended by competent reviewers.

It is just bringing out a book, parts of which some of us have seen, which will be an important contribution to our knowledge of the subject discussed.

His teaching has been uniformly successful with all classes of men - Freshmen

Sophomores, Juniors, and Graduates. His first interest is Greek, and, so far as it has been possible, we have given him Greek subjects, but he has also taught Latin.

He is a man of fine character, of vigor, and poise, and has attractive personal qualities which have made him much liked both by his colleagues and by his students. You would find in him a devoted scholar, an excellent teacher, and a gentleman.

Very truly yours
Frank Frost Abbott
(Chairman of the Department of Classics)

To President R. A. Falconer

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY
PRINCETON, N. J.

DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS

March 13, 1916

President R. A. Falconer

Toronto, Canada

Dear Sir:

My colleague in the Classical Faculty, Professor W. Sherwood Fox, has asked me to write to you regarding him, with reference to a possible future opening at Toronto. He is one of the most valuable men in our department (of 25 professors, assistant professors and instructors), and I have great pleasure in stating his qualifications for a position of greater responsibility than he has here, especially since he told us frankly when we secured him that he hoped ultimately to return to Canada.

Professor Fox has been here five years next September, and in that time has shown himself 1) a splendid teacher, 2) an able and ambitious investigator, 3) a man of wide interests and splendid training, 4) and a delightful colleague. I will speak of each of these points.

// We have assigned him work of every grade, from freshmen to graduate students. He has succeeded in all. There is no course in Greek or Latin with which we would not entrust him without hesitation. His most conspicuous success has been in building up our Senior course in Aristotle, from almost nothing to a very respectable number. This year we received a petition from four men to authorize a one-term extension of this course, so that they might have twice as much, and we granted

DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS

the request--a most unusual one here--with alacrity. I have noticed, when I have been associated with him in a large course (e.g. Greek Tragedy with Sophomores) that he gets a strong hold upon his students, wins their respect, and inspires them to their best work. He establishes friendly relations with them, and I frequently meet them at his house. On the whole, I am inclined to think him the most adaptable of all our assistant professors and the equal of any as a teacher.

2) His writings have been continuous since he has been here. His special interests are in Philosophy and Religion, Mythology, Palaeography, particularly in the field of Egyptian papyri. He is one of the three men in this country who have published most papyri, and he has already won a position of recognized authority in Religion and Mythology--a reputation which will be greatly enhanced when his book appears of which I enclose a prospectus. It was I who recommended him to the General Editors, two years ago, as the best man I knew for the task, and he has shown a remarkable organizing ability to have mastered the extensive materials of his subject and to have written the book of some 600 pages in so short a time. No other man here, at least, could have done it. He writes well, commanding a good literary style.

Professor Fox's scholarly growth has been steady, and in my opinion he will continue to grow as a scholar and as a writer. But he requires the equipment of a large library and access to museum materials.

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY
PRINCETON, N. J.

3

DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS

3) I have covered this point under 2), except that I should mention his social gifts, and those of his charming wife. He has been active in the community, taking part in the work of the church and in benevolence.

4) Professor Fox is approaching forty. He has had a wide experience, has travelled much, and with his native culture and refinement is a most agreeable man to meet and to work with. We have always found him more than ready to bear his part in the work of the department and of the faculty, and skilful as a manager and in committee. He is a man of positive character and convictions, and of good judgment.

You will readily see from the above that I have the highest opinion of Professor Fox and regard him as one of the ablest and most promising men of his years in the country. If there were not already eight full professors in our classical department, I should urge him to wait here and make his career with us. But it will be years before any of us retires, and I reluctantly concur in Professor Fox's judgment that he would be better off in a position of responsibility more suited to his attainments and powers.

Very truly yours,

Richard C. Bly

